



# CCM Testimony

545 Long Wharf Drive., 8th Floor, New Haven, CT 06511 • 203-498-3000



## *Children's Committee*

February 7, 2023

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 99% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **HB 6574 "An Act Concerning Municipal Youth Camps"**

HB 6574 would require that municipal youth camps comply with licensure requirements administered through the Office of Early Childhood and impose costly mandates on towns and cities through additional unnecessary oversight.

CCM has serious concerns that the proposed changes will have unintended consequences for municipal camp programs. Mandating licensure requirements will increase costs to municipalities, increase administrative burdens, and potentially close down programs that are so essential for families and children. Specifically, CCM has concerns with:

- Increasing the costs by mandating additional staffing, administrative burdens, facility requirements and other mandated functions.
- Reluctantly passing the increase in costs to families, making the programs unaffordable.
- Potentially reducing hours of operation, consolidation programs or even discontinuing programs.
- Reduced essential childcare opportunities for working families.
- The ability for camps to comply with the mandated requirements, while attempting to maintain quality programming
- The ability of OEC to handle the influx of license and the ability to perform inspections, which may leave municipal programs in uncertain positions.

Currently, towns and cities oversee these programs and, to our knowledge, there have been no reported incidences or issues that would warrant this level of regulation and cost burdens. The proposed changes in HB 6574 are unnecessary and will irreparably harm towns and cities ability to provide quality summer programming for the children and families in their municipality.

CCM strongly opposes this unfunded mandate.

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If you have any questions, please contact [Zachary McKeown](#), Senior Legislative Associate of CCM.



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